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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

1931

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EDMONTON:
PRINTED BY W. D. McLEAN, KING'S PRINTER
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EDMONTON, January 1st, 1932.

To His Honour

W. L. WALSH,

Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta,

EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit the Report of the Railway Department for the Fiscal Year ending March 31st, 1931.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

VERNOR SMITH,

Minister of Railways and Telephones.

EDMONTON, January 1st, 1932.

THE HONOURABLE VERNOR SMITH,

Minister of Railways and Telephones,

EDMONTON, ALBERTA.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Railways Branch of the Department of Railways & Telephones for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1931.

The Report of 1930 made reference to the taking over of the remaining railways under Provincial operation by the joint owners, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railways, and of the cessation by the Province of the operation of all railways. There is therefore nothing to report by the Province in regard to the operation of any railway.

I give below lists of mileages added by the various railways in the Province from April 1st, 1930, to March 31st, 1931.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

Subdivision	Territory	Miles Added
Suffield	Suffield to Lomond	84.0
Lomond	Lomond to Eltham	63.0
Acme	Cesway to Wimborne	27.9
Vegreville	Vegreville to Willingdon	24.6
Rosedale Spur	Eladesore to Jct. with C.N.R.	2.5
	Total Miles	202.0

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Nil	Nil	Nil

NORTHERN ALBERTA RAILWAYS

Subdivision	Territory	Miles Added
Grande Prairie	Hythe to B.C. Boundary	23.29
Peace River	Fairview to Hines Creek	16.00
	Total Miles	39.29

The Northern Alberta Railways placed their extension into British Columbia territory from Hythe to Dawson Creek, B.C., in operation on January 15th, 1931. The extension from Fairview to Hines Creek, on the Peace River

subdivision, Mileage 97.4 to Mileage 113.4, was put into operation on December 5th, 1930.

The following Schedules are appended hereto:

Schedule "A"—

Statement of Railway Mileages of Alberta, by periods of five years—1905 to 1931.

Schedule "B"—

Comparative statement of Railway Mileages of the Western Provinces, March 31st, 1930 and 1931.

Schedule "C"—

Index references of Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, Judgments of interest to Alberta.

It will be noted that the total railway mileage increase during the year ending March 31st, 1931, is 127 miles for the Province of Alberta and 786 miles for the Western Provinces.

FREIGHT RATES

In midsummer of 1930 the Department took up the matter of the charges for stoppage in transit for creosoting of timber products which are subsequently re-forwarded from Edmonton and Calgary. For some years the railways had charged 5 cents per 100 lbs. for this service when the destination of the creosoted product was west of Port Arthur, while for points east of Port Arthur the charge was 2 cents per 100 lbs.

After prolonged correspondence with the railway concerned, as well as conferences, the justness of our claim was acknowledged, and the Companies corrected their tariffs effective April 15th, 1931, reducing the charge to 2 cents to all points. This effected a large saving on the movements of materials of the Department of Public Works of the Province and the Telephone Department, as well as commercial interests in the Province.

The Government lost its Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada against the decision of the Board of Railway Commissioners' Judgment in 1927 in regard to certain C. N.R. grain rates for export both to Fort William and Vancouver, but the judgment at least cleared up the point as to what the correct rates were, about which there had been considerable misunderstanding.

By arrangement, the special coal rate of $6.75 from Alberta to Ontario was extended by the Board of Railway Commissioners to March 15th, 1931, and arrangements are being made for a further extension to March 15th, 1932.

During the year at the request of the Red Deer Board of Trade, considerable extension of territory to which the distributing rates from that city apply, was secured after negotiation with the railways by the Department.

In the Report of the Department for the year ending March 31st, 1930, mention was made of the Appeal by the Province of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia on the 20th day of May, 1929, to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, from certain phases of the Board of Railway Commissioners' Order No. 448, as a result of the General Freight investigation instituted by Order in Council P.C. 886 in 1925, and that no decision has been given in the matter.

This decision is important as the Appeal applies for a reduction of the Domestic Grain rates from prairie points to points in British Columbia.

These were the major activities. In addition this Department kept a watchful eye over proposed classification changes which might adversely affect this Province, a very important one being the proposal to raise the classification of bulk apples from British Columbia to the Province, which would have the effect of raising the cost to the consumer of over one hundred dollars per car. Although the change was proposed early in 1930, so far we have been successful in opposing it.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. CHARD,

Secretary to the Department of Railways.

SCHEDULE "A"

DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS

STATEMENT OF RAILWAY MILEAGE OF THE WESTERN PROVINCES

YEARS ENDING MARCH 31ST, 1930 AND 1931.

ONTARIO

West of Port Arthur

	March 31st 1930	March 31st 1931
Canadian Pacific Railway	334	334
Canadian National Railways	788	788
	1,122	1,122

MANITOBA

Canadian Pacific Railway	1,765	1,765
Canadian National Railways	2,988	3,078
Great Northern Railway	160	160
	4,913	5,003

SASKATCHEWAN

Canadian Pacific Railway	3,799	3,978
Canadian National Railways	4,187	4,461
	7,986	8,439

ALBERTA

Canadian Pacific Railway	2,499	2,577
Canadian National Railways	2,227	2,237
Northern Alberta Railways	857	895
	5,583	5,709

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Canadian Pacific Railway	1,334	1,773
Canadian National Railways	1,442	1,442
Great Northern Railway	365	362
Pacific Great Eastern Railway	395	395
*Kettle Valley Railway	319	
	3,855	3,972
Total Mileage	23,459	24,245

*Absorbed by Canadian Pacific Railway.

DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS

SCHEDULE "B"

Statement of Railway Mileage for Alberta—Five-year Periods—1905 to March 31st, 1931.

			Total Mileage
1905	Canadian Pacific Railway	1,060	1,060
1906	Canadian Pacific Railway	1,061	
	Canadian Northern Railway	178	1,239
1910	Canadian Pacific Railway	1,269	
	Canadian Northern Railway	220	
	Grand Trunk Pacific Railway	293	1,782
1915	Canadian Pacific Railway	1,909	
	Canadian Northern Railway	1,247	
	Grand Trunk Pacific Railway	707	
	Edmonton, Dunvegan & B.C. Rly.	337	
	Alberta & Great Waterways Rly.	175	
	Central Canada Railway	48	4,423
1920	Canadian Pacific Railway	1,921	
	Canadian National Railways	1,361	
	Grand Trunk Pacific Railway	640	
	Edmonton, Dunvegan & B.C. Rly.	408	
	Alberta & Great Waterways Rly.	284	
	Central Canada Railway	49	
	Lacombe & Northwestern Railway	33	4,696
1925	Canadian Pacific Railway	2,076	
	Canadian National Railways	2,085	
	Edmonton, Dunvegan & B.C. Rly.	423	
	Alberta & Great Waterways Rly.	286	
	Central Canada Railway	85	
	Lacombe & Northwestern Railway	49	5,004
March 31st 1930	Canadian Pacific Railway	2,499	
	Canadian National Railways	2,227	
	Northern Alberta Railways	857	5,583
March 31st 1931	Canadian Pacific Railway	2,577	
	Canadian National Railways	2,237	
	Northern Alberta Railways	896	5,710

DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS

Railway Board Decisions of Interest to Alberta:

Volume 20: *From April* 1st, 1930, *to March* 31st, 1931:

	Pages
Alberta Government vs. C.N. Rlys.: Rates—Grain and Flour to Fort William, etc., and to Vancouver, B.C.	274-290
Amendment—Rate structure—Stop-off privileges—United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan section	213
Change location of Station at Girouxville	68- 69
C. N. Railways—Opening for traffic, Elk Point, Easterly branch, Mileage 141-73 to Mileage 161.27	249
C. N. Railways—Opening for traffic, St. Walburg-Bonnyville branch from connection of South branch with Company's Bonnyville Subdivision at Bonnyville, easterly for 20.4 miles	273
C. P. R. Co. Opening for traffic, Suffield-Blackie branch, Mileage 124.65 to 147	138
C. P. R. Co. Opening for traffic, Swift Current Northwesterly branch, Coronation to Youngstown, Mileage 187.54 to 227.04	175
Coal movement to Ontario	267
Northern Alberta Railways: Opening for traffic Mileage 89 to 138.8	346
Northern Alberta Railways: Opening for traffic Peace River Subdivision, Mileage 97.4 to Mileage 113.4—Fairview to Hines Creek, Alta.	289
Increase in billing weight of 30 dozen crates of eggs—denied	355-358